

Message Text

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12

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1449
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID: EAGR: EFIN: LA: TH

SUBJECT: RED: MEKONG: PROPOSED ADB TA FOR CASIER SUD PROJECT

REF: MANILA 2867

FOR NAC AGENCIES

MANILA FOR USADB

1. HAVE TWO QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SELECTION OF CASIER SUD AS PIONEER PROJECT: EXTEND VB LEVEE SOILS SUITABLE FOR IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT IN LAOS IS LIMITED. THEREFORE LESSONS LEARNED ABOUT IRRIGATION OF SUCH LANDS THROUGH PROJECT TYPE FACILITIES ON CASIER SUD WILL HAVE ONLY LIMITED APPLICATION TO OTHER AREAS. AS AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD PREFER TO SEE MORE TIME AND ATTENTION SPENT ON VIENTIANE PLAIN WHERE THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTAL POSSIBILITIES. LESSONS

LEARNED THERE WOULD BE USEFUL IN GUIDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. THE THA NGON PROJECT ON THE PLAIN COULD BE EXPANDED OR AN ADDITIONAL AREA COULD BE SELECTED. THAILAND HAS CONSIDERABLY MORE LEVEE SOILS THAN LAOS AND IT MIGHT BE SUGGESTED THAT LESSONS LEARNED IN LAOS WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL IN THAILAND. THIS IS TRUE, BUT IT HAS ALSO BEEN SUGGESTED THAT A PIONEER PROJECT BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE LEVEE

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SOILS IN THAILAND. IF THAT WERE DONE, THE THAI PROJECT WOULD SERVE THE NEEDS OF THAILAND.

2. AIT STIXIES SHOW THAT DIKING WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROTECT CASIER SUD AREAS FROM MAJOR FLOODS AND THAT IF DIKES ARE CONSTRUCTED TO AN ELEVATION REQUIRED TO PROTECT THE AREA THEY WILL SIGNIFICANTLY RAISE THE EVLVALION OF THE FLOOD WATERS ON BOTH THE LAO AND THE THAI SIDES OF THE RIVER. THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO CONSTRUCT LOW DIKES, BUT THESE WOULD EXPOSE THE AREA AND PROJECT FACILITIES TO PERIODIC FLOODS AND DAMAGE. SERIOUS ATTEMPTS TO DEVELOP THE LEVEE SOILS IN THE CASIER SUD AEAA SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL UPSTEAM STORAGE TO PVODIE FLOOD PROTECTION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

3. IN VIEW OF THESE QUESTIONS HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE UTILITY OF THE PROPOSED STUDY AS PART OF THE PIONEER PROGRAM. EXCEPT FOR THE QUESTION OF THE FLOODS, IT COULD BE JUSTIFIED AS A DEVELOPMENT

IN ITS OWN RIGHT, BUT THAT IS NOT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PIONEER PROGRAM.
UNGER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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